

National Register Criterion D

Criterion D represents the potential to yield information; these resources are primarily archeology sites. An example would be a prehistoric village site.

A good South Dakota example of this criterion is Fort Pierre Chouteau, a National Historic Landmark located about one mile north of Fort Pierre.

Fort Pierre Chouteau is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield archeological information. Fort Pierre Chouteau was one of the most significant fur trade/military posts on the northern plains. It was built in 1832 and named for Pierre Chouteau. Chouteau was the chief agent of the American Fur Company's Western Department.

Fort Pierre Chouteau supplied a system of smaller posts and seasonal trading areas. It was sold the U.S. Army in 1855 and occupied until 1857. As an archeological site it has the potential to yield important information about the fur trade in South Dakota as well as the early military presence.



Above: Fort Pierre Chouteau watercolor by Frederick Behman, 1854. (National Archives)



Left: white, Fort Pierre Chouteau boundary; red, military fort (1855); blue, original fur trading post (1832). Below: Volunteers assist with excavation at Fort Pierre Chouteau in 2001.



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